



July 11, 2007

Bernard Leerkes  
President  
Essex County Farm Bureau  
47 Third Ave.  
Ticonderoga, NY 12883

Dear Mr. Leerkes:

It has been several years since the Agency continued its dialogue with the Essex County Farm Bureau related to agriculture in the County. This is an important subject and with new staff in a number of management positions I would like to invite you to join senior staff, Dr. Bob Somers from Ag and Markets, and Anita Deming for private, informal discussion on August 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in Ray Brook.

This should provide an opportunity for you to meet new staff at the Agency working with local government, our permit program and our enforcement program. Mrs. Deming has offered to provide an overview of Essex County's agriculture plan and current opportunities and challenges. Dr. Somers will provide an overview of recent changes in Ag and Markets law. I invite you to point out current issues of concern to the Farm Bureau.

While we have a number of challenging issues, including one lawsuit, that are currently active, we will not discuss any specific individual's case or concern. This type of dialogue has been highly productive in the past and provides an important foundation to prevent misunderstanding and remove obstacles to agriculture in the County and the Park.

I truly appreciate your leadership on this issue in the past and look forward to continuing and improved communication.

Very truly yours,

*Mark E. Sengenberger*

Mark E. Sengenberger  
Acting Executive Director

MES:dal

cc: Bernard Beebe  
Kirby Selkirk  
Anita Deming  
Dr. Robert Somers  
Ross S. Whaley  
John S. Banta  
James E. Connolly  
Stephen M. Erman

P.O. Box 99 • NYS Route 86 • Ray Brook, NY 12977 • 518 891-4050 • 518 891-3938 fax • [www.apa.state.ny.us](http://www.apa.state.ny.us)

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NEW YORK STATE  
Adirondack  
parkagency

July 13, 2007

Bob Somers, Ph.D.  
Manager, Agricultural Protection Unit  
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets  
10B Airline Drive  
Albany, NY 12235

Dear Dr. Somers:

I am writing to confirm our planned meeting Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, at 2 p.m. here at the Agency. I look forward to meeting you.

This will provide an opportunity for you to meet new staff at the Agency working with local government, our permit program and our enforcement program. Anita Deming has offered to present an overview of Essex County's agriculture plan and current opportunities and challenges. We hope that you can provide an overview of recent changes in Ag and Markets law and any other information regarding agricultural districts or other issues that you think would be helpful. We have invited the President of the Essex County Farm Bureau and Kirby Selkirk, Regional Farm Bureau representative, to share their concerns.

This is not a public meeting, but is intended as in-service training for senior staff at the Agency. Please let me or John Banta know if you have any questions. John will separately respond to Ag and Markets recent questions in the near future.

Sincerely,

*Mark E. Sengenberger*  
Mark E. Sengenberger  
Acting Executive Director

MES:dal

cc: Anita Deming ✓  
John S. Banta, Esq.



August 13, 2007

Anita Deming  
Cornell Cooperative Extension Essex County  
3 Sisco St.  
PO Box 388  
Westport, NY 12993

Dear Ms. Deming:

Thank you for taking time from your busy summer schedule to build a better understanding of agriculture in the Park as it relates to the Park Agency's responsibilities.

Useful next steps came out of the meeting including better APA information materials for farm operators, use of the Agricultural District information from the County and Ag and Markets in our internal information systems for jurisdictional and permit review, and continued dialogue to include the Agency Board.

I look forward to future discussions.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Sengenberger  
Acting Executive Director

MES:dal

cc: Ross S. Whaley

# NAME

# Organization

MARK SENGENBERGER	APA - ACTING EXEC. DIR.
Dan Spada	APA - Supervisor, Nat. Res. Analysis
RITA QUINN	APA - Jurisdictional Inquiry Office
Sony Seuber	F B
BERNARD Beebe	F. B.
Stephen Erman	APA - Economic Affairs
Jim Connolly	PLANNING
Fred Munroe	Nat'l. Rural Gov't Serv. Board
BERNARD Leevkes	Farm Bureau ESSEX Co.
Bob Somers	Dept. of Agr. & Markets, Albany
Anita Deming	Cornell Cooperative Extension
BRIAN GRIS	APA - LOCAL Gov't Services
Holly Kneeshaw	APA - Assistant Director, Regulatory Programs
Barbara Rottier	APA Associate Counsel
John Banta	APA Counsel
Keith McKeeven	APA Public Relations